



# DEDHAM

## Norfolk County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Dedham is an historic suburban industrial town on the principal southern corridor of metropolitan Boston, and is the site of the earliest surviving framed house in New England, the handsome 1737 Fairbanks House. The 10.7 square mile community received its grant as a town from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636, placing it among the oldest communities in the state. Its colonial agricultural economy was expanded by industry only after the town, in 1639, built one of the earliest water power canals connecting the Charles River with a tributary of the Neponset River and creating sufficient water power for grist and fulling mills. The character and future of the community changed drastically when it became the county seat for Norfolk County and the court house was built in 1796. As local historians pointed out, this brought in lawyers and officials, trained, educated and ambitious men who changed the face of the community by investing in and supporting industrial development. Woolen mills were developed in Dedham and innovations such as power broadlooms were introduced. By 1830 there were two woolen mills, two cotton mills, four sawmills and five factories staffed by Irish and German immigrants who made up 27% of the Dedham population. Everything from pianos to furniture was made in Dedham, including famous Dedham crackleware pottery. The town shows a rich and diverse architectural face to the world, with its monumental granite court house of Greek Revival design, its Victorian prison, its limestone Neoclassical Registry of Deeds, Romanesque Revival public library and Renaissance and Georgian Revival schools. In addition, Dedham has a remarkably well preserved town center, with many handsome, historic houses of which the community is very proud.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

---

## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Needham on the northwest, Boston on the northeast and east, and Canton and Westwood on the south. Dedham is 10 miles south of Boston; 16 miles north of Brockton; 33 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 211 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 10.64 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 10.45 sq. miles

**Population:** 23,782

**Density:** 2,276 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Blue Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....49.0"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Norwood, Newton

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

---

## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 326-5770

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1636

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	14,201		
Democrats	5,479	38.6	%
Republicans	1,530	10.8	%
Other parties	4	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,188	50.6	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Dedham town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	23,464	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	23,464	100.0
Male.....	11,329	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	567	2.4
Female.....	12,135	51.7	Mexican.....	42	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,435	6.1	Puerto Rican.....	174	0.7
5 to 9 years.....	1,470	6.3	Cuban.....	38	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	1,480	6.3	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	313	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	1,228	5.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	22,897	97.6
20 to 24 years.....	964	4.1	White alone.....	21,873	93.2
25 to 34 years.....	3,239	13.8	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	4,067	17.3	Total population.....	23,464	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,324	14.2	In households.....	22,582	96.2
55 to 59 years.....	1,274	5.4	Householder.....	8,654	36.9
60 to 64 years.....	1,078	4.6	Spouse.....	4,874	20.8
65 to 74 years.....	1,980	8.4	Child.....	7,091	30.2
75 to 84 years.....	1,441	6.1	Own child under 18 years.....	4,861	20.7
85 years and over.....	484	2.1	Other relatives.....	1,167	5.0
Median age (years).....	39.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	309	1.3
18 years and over.....	18,256	77.8	Nonrelatives.....	796	3.4
Male.....	8,747	37.3	Unmarried partner.....	293	1.2
Female.....	9,509	40.5	In group quarters.....	882	3.8
21 years and over.....	17,683	75.4	Institutionalized population.....	831	3.5
62 years and over.....	4,536	19.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	51	0.2
65 years and over.....	3,905	16.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,585	6.8	Total households.....	8,654	100.0
Female.....	2,320	9.9	Family households (families).....	6,146	71.0
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	2,606	30.1
One race.....	23,211	98.9	Married-couple family.....	4,874	56.3
White.....	22,175	94.5	With own children under 18 years.....	2,151	24.9
Black or African American.....	362	1.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	957	11.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	37	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	383	4.4
Asian.....	439	1.9	Nonfamily households.....	2,508	29.0
Asian Indian.....	72	0.3	Householder living alone.....	2,065	23.9
Chinese.....	160	0.7	Householder 65 years and over.....	904	10.4
Filipino.....	88	0.4	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,795	32.3
Japanese.....	12	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,676	30.9
Korean.....	18	0.1	Average household size.....	2.61	(X)
Vietnamese.....	45	0.2	Average family size.....	3.14	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	44	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	-	Total housing units.....	8,908	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	8,654	97.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	254	2.9
Samoa.....	6	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	15	0.2
Some other race.....	188	0.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	253	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.6	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	8,654	100.0
White.....	22,995	95.4	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,937	80.2
Black or African American.....	418	1.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,717	19.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	92	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.72	(X)
Asian.....	509	2.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.16	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	25	0.1			
Some other race.....	292	1.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



---

# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

---

**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 319

Conventional Federal: 24

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 16

Federal (Section 8): 217



---

# TRANSPORTATION

---

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Dedham is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 1, State Routes 109, 128, and 135, and Interstate Route 95.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available from Dedham Corporate Center and Endicott to South Station and Back Bay Station, Boston. Travel time from Endicott to BBS: 17-18 minutes; no MBTA parking. Travel time from Dedham Corporate Center: 16-22 minutes; 497 MBTA parking spaces. Amtrak's passenger service between Boston and New York City stops at the Route 128 Station in neighboring Westwood.

### Bus

Dedham is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to Mattapan Station on the Red Line, to Forest Hills Station on the Orange Line, and to Watertown Square. Dedham Local Bus offers frequent service within Dedham.

### Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

---

## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Dedham Historical Society

612 High Street

(781) 326-1385

Fairbanks House

511 East Street

(781) 326-1170

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Eastwood Care Center

### Hospices

Hospice Community Services

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

## WELFARE ASSISTANCE

(Department of Public Welfare 1994)

	Cases
<b>Cash Assistance</b>	
Refugee Assistance	0
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Aged	78
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	158
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Disabled	203
Emergency Aid (formerly General Relief)	19
Medicaid Only	
Aged	28
Families	87
Disabled	72
Children	5
Food Stamps Only	87
Total	737

DPW caseloads are compiled by zip code. The cases shown are for the zip code(s) in which the community is located, and may include cases for other communities with the same code.





---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.